

REMARKS

Claims 15-24 are pending in the application.

Based on the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections, and withdraw them.

Obviousness-type double patenting rejection

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 15-24 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-14 and 17 of copending application No. 09/684,129 in view of Warther et al. This is the only rejection remaining in this application.

On March 26, 2004, following the submission of applicant's original Response to the outstanding Office Action on March 19, 2004, copending application No. 09/684,129 was allowed, making the present obviousness-type double patenting rejection *procedurally* proper. Applicant is accordingly overcoming the rejection by the submission herewith of a Terminal Disclaimer.

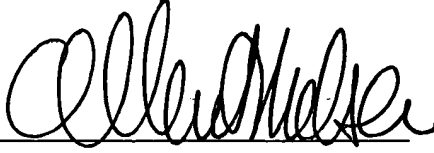
Conclusion

All rejections have been complied with, properly traversed, or rendered moot. Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for allowance. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative so that this case may receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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